

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Joseph K. Buesing,

District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment of Proposed Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, Maintenance Yard & Tennis Center Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C.

ACTION: Notice of the availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed wireless telecommunications facilities in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council of Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, NPS has completed a FONSI and an EA which have evaluated the potential impacts of two monopole-mounted antennas and supporting infrastructure proposed to be located in Rock Creek Park to provide acceptable wireless telecommunication coverage within Rock Creek Park south of Military Road. The NPS has determined that the implementation of the preferred alternatives at the tennis center and the maintenance yard will cause no derogation of park resources and would not constitute a major Federal action that would have significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The NPS is making the FONSI and EA available for public review. The NPS will take no final action on these wireless telecommunications facilities until the comments from the public have been considered.

DATES: There will be a 30-day public review period for comment on this document. Comments on the FONSI and EA should be received no later than March 31, 1999. Additionally, the NPS will hold a public meeting on March 24, 1999, to receive public comment on this issue. The meeting will be held at the Rock Creek Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road, Washington, D.C. at 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Comment on the FONSI and EA should be submitted to: Ms. Adrienne Coleman, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW., Washington, D.C. 20008.

Public reading copies of the FONSI and EA will be available for review at Rock Creek Park Headquarters, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW., and at the Rock Creek Park web page at www.nps.gov/rocr.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent Adrienne Coleman, Rock Creek Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW., Washington, D.C. 20008, Telephone: (202) 282-1063.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Congress and the President have established a Federal interest in promoting the efficient implementation of new telecommunications policy. The NPS is concerned about the safety of visitors to its parks and will consider public safety as a factor when reviewing telecommunications antenna proposals. The NPS will cooperate with such proposals to enhance visitor safety as long as those proposals do not result in a derogation of park resources or conflict with the current or planned use of park property.

On May 26, 1998, Bell Atlantic Mobile submitted two completed applications for installation of wireless telecommunications facilities in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. The proposed facility sites are the Fitzgerald Tennis Stadium and the park's maintenance yard. This EA analyzed the overall impacts of both proposed facilities on the resources of Rock Creek Park because the sites are engineered to operate interdependently. Due to steep topography and forest cover on both sides of the valley, antennas on both sides of the valley are necessary to achieve acceptable wireless telecommunications coverage since one site is not capable of providing the level of communications coverage necessary for enhanced telephonic access to emergency law enforcement and public safety services within the Rock Creek valley south of Military Road.

This EA analyzed two alternative sites for locating a wireless communications facility at the tennis center and four alternatives for a facility at the maintenance yard. It examined their physical and visual impact on park resources, operations, and visitor services, including mitigation of any potential impacts. Additionally, this EA addressed whether these wireless telecommunications facilities would enhance public safety.

The NPS published a notice in the **Federal Register** on May 26, 1998, inviting public comment on the Bell Atlantic Mobile applications and as a result received over 40 comments on the proposed wireless telecommunications facilities.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

Regional Director, National Capital Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Bay-Delta Advisory Council Meeting; Bay-Delta Advisory Council's Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) will meet to discuss key issues in the southern San Joaquin Valley and to begin addressing key CALFED critical issues, focusing on the Water Management Strategy, Governance and Stage I actions. There will also be a farm and groundwater banking site tour that the public is invited to participate.

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council's (BDAC) Ecosystem Roundtable will meet on March 16, 1999, to discuss several issues including: the project selection process for the February 1999 proposal solicitation package, administrative costs, funding coordination, an implementation and tracking system update, and other issues. These meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the BDAC and Ecosystem Roundtable or may file written statements for consideration.

DATES: The Bay-Delta Advisory Council will tour farms and groundwater banking sites on Wednesday, March 24, 1999. The tour will begin at 1:30 p.m. from the Arvin-Edison Water District, 20401 Bear Mountain Boulevard, Arvin. BDAC will meet from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Select, 801 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield. The Bay-Delta Advisory Council's Ecosystem Roundtable meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The Bay-Delta Advisory Council will meet at the Holiday Inn Select, 801 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301. The Ecosystem Roundtable will meet at the Energy Commission Building, Hearing Room A, at 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the Bay-Delta Advisory Council Meeting, Eugenia Laychak, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, at (916) 657-2666.